

# The Advisor

May 14, 2005  
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Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

## Safer travels



Iraqi armored battalion  
joins Coalition forces  
to provide 24-hour security  
on a Taji roadway

May 14, 2005

# MNSTC-I

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**Cover: An Iraqi T-55 tank crew makes its way along a Taji road during a route security patrol. Elements of the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Brigade are conducting patrols with Coalition forces.**

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

## Myers addresses violence in Iraq

**By Donna Miles**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The recent spike in violence in Iraq represents an attempt to discredit the new Iraqi government and cabinet, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told Pentagon reporters here May 12.

Similarly, U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers said, a May 11 incident in Jalalabad, Afghanistan -- in which at least three people died and scores were injured -- appears tied up to the political process there, including President Hamid Karzai's reconciliation program.

An after-action report by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, commander of Combined Forces Command Afghanistan, determined that the Jalalabad incident "was not necessarily the result of allegations about disrespect for the Koran" by guards at the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Myers said.

A magazine article said U.S. interrogators in Guantanamo Bay had flushed a copy of the Koran down a toilet, and the Jalalabad violence was widely reported to have grown from anti-American protests sparked by the article. U.S. Army Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, commander of U.S. Southern Command, is in Guantanamo Bay "digging into this issue," Myers said, but no interrogation logs reviewed so far have confirmed such an incident.

One log entry, still unconfirmed, did note that a detainee had been found "ripping pages out of the Koran and

putting them in the toilet to stop it up as a protest," Myers said.

Meanwhile, in Iraq the surge in terrorist attacks, many using vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, generally involves "Iraqis blowing up Iraqis," Myers said.

"I don't know how (the insurgents) expect to curry favor with the Iraqi population when we have Iraqi-on-Iraqi violence," he said.

In response, Myers said, Coalition forces are continuing their ongoing strategy, which he described as "to get the Iraqis in front of this process."

Polls show that Iraqis "are sick and tired of this violence" and are increasingly coming forward with intelligence about insurgent activity. "The intelligence is better and better every day from the Iraqis," Myers said.

The increase in violent attacks underscores the fact that the Iraqis and Coalition are dealing with "a very violent insurgency" and "a thinking and adapting adversary," he said.

Their use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, which Myers called "a very tough device to thwart," demonstrates their adaptability, he said.

Insurgencies typically last three to nine years, and countering the one in Iraq is a "tough fight," Myers said.

"In the end, it is going to have to be the Iraqis that win this," he said.

**"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."**

— Nelson Mandela (1918 -)



# Iraqi mech brigade joins Coalition troops on missions

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – A joint task force of Iraqi mechanized brigade soldiers and Coalition troops is giving motorists a safer journey with 24-hour route security patrols and traffic checkpoints.

The task force is about a week into the operations, focusing primarily on a heavily traveled road near the Taji military base known for frequent improvised explosive device attacks. The Iraqi element includes T-55 tanks and MTLB armored personnel carriers.

With the exception of an IED detonating on the first night of the operations – which U.S. officers believe was placed before the security patrols started – the attacks have stopped, leaders said. Two Iraqi soldiers injured from the IED blast, which threw them from the top of their tank, have since returned to work. A motorcyclist, believed to have played a role in setting off the IED, ignored warnings to stop and was shot by an Iraqi soldier on a nearby rooftop. The motorcycle rider was not seriously injured, officials said.



Soldiers with the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Brigade's Armored Battalion return from a 24-hour security patrol in a MTLB armored personnel carrier. The unit is conducting joint operations with U.S. Soldiers with the 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Armored Division.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

"It's going very well," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Anthony Wright, commander of the 70<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, which is working with elements of the Iraqi Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Mechanized Brigade's armored battalion. "I've been really impressed with their training, discipline and motivation."

The Iraqi and Coalition soldiers also conducted a cordon and search mission of a nearby village, finding a number of weapons and detaining eight individuals. The residents were

more receptive to the searches because of the Iraqi soldiers, Wright said.

Wright said he has been impressed with their level of efficiency and the discipline they've shown – from little things like keeping their areas clean to larger tasks, like how they set themselves up on route patrols.

"I'm seeing professional Iraqi Army soldiers with leaders that are capable of making and executing missions," Wright said. "It makes me very optimistic."

U.S. Army Maj. Lawrence White, a senior advisor with the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, agrees. He has been working with the armored battalion since February with a team that includes one captain and four non-commissioned officers.

"This unit has good, strong leadership," said White, noting that the majority of the battalion and brigade soldiers were tankers in the former Iraqi Army. "We have little issues here and there, but they really take responsibility for themselves. Every day they surprise me."



Iraqi soldiers on a T-55 tank take up a position while conducting route security patrols on a roadway near Taji. Attacks with improvised explosive devices have stopped on the road since the patrols with Coalition forces started recently.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

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## Armor

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In the motor pool, for example, White said he and other advisers have stepped back and let the unit's maintenance officers and soldiers take care of business. Now, when tanks and armored personnel carriers come in from missions, there are teams waiting to inspect each vehicle and, if necessary, make repairs.



A maintenance crew works on a T-55 tank in the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Brigade's motor pool. None of the units vehicles have missed a patrol since joint operations began recently.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

"They did that all on their own, we had nothing to do with it," White said. "I just know the tanks works."

Iraqi Cpt. Khilid, who, like other officers and soldiers uses one name – or none at all – for security reasons, is proud that his maintenance teams have helped ensure that none of the unit's 35 tanks have missed a mission so far.

"If something is wrong, we fix it quickly," he said.

The brigade currently consists of a headquarters element, the 1st Armored Battalion, the 1st Mechanized Battalion and the newly-formed 2<sup>nd</sup> Mechanized Battalion, which is



U.S. Army Maj. Jeffrey Harnish, a Coalition adviser to the 1st Iraqi Mechanized Brigade, tries on a gift from his Iraqi counterpart for the enjoyment of other Iraqi and Coalition officers and soldiers (left). U.S. Army Maj. Lawrence White (right) communicates with a lot of hand signals when trying to assist soldiers in the Brigade's Armored Battalion. The soldier was asking him about protective eyewear.

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

expected to start operations within the next month or so. The brigade played a role in helping provide security on Election Day, Jan. 30. More recently, the soldiers have been out in their tanks and armored personnel carriers for route security missions and joint operations in Abu Ghraib.

Iraqi Gen. Kassim, the brigade's commander, said citizens are always surprised to see their soldiers in tanks bearing the Iraqi flag.

"They didn't know they had Iraqi tanks," Kassim said.

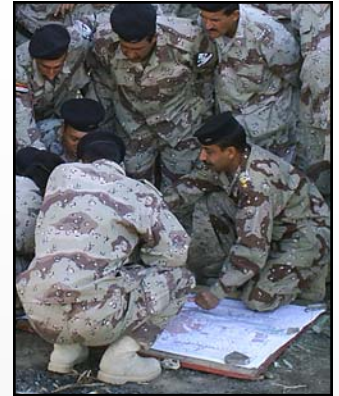
"When they see them, they always clap and yell. They are very happy."

Protecting the people is a big motivation for serving, some soldiers in the unit said. They also returned to serve in the new Iraqi Army because they wanted the opportunity to prove they are capable of taking care of their country. Hearing terrorist propaganda that accuses Iraqi Security Forces of betraying their country by working with the Coalition makes them angry, they said.

"We are not betraying our country, we are protecting our country," said one soldier, who served in the former Army for eight years as a tanker. "Today, we feel like we are real soldiers, not slaves for Saddam."

The 28-year-old soldier said he enjoys working with Coalition forces and learning from their experiences. He feels comfortable enough with them to call them brothers. His decision to return to the Army came from an obligation to take care of his family and fellow citizens.

"It's my responsibility," he said. "If I sit in my home and do nothing, who will protect my country?"



Iraqi Mech Brigade soldiers go through a map reading training class with Coalition advisers in preparation for upcoming missions.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. James Allsup





# Iraqi mechanized battalion moves into Abu Ghraib

## 10th Mountain Division Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD - The 1st Mechanized Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade began combat operations in the western Baghdad district of Abu Ghraib May 2, with the mission to defeat the insurgents who have been staging attacks in the Iraqi capital.

The battalion, composed of armored personnel carriers, tanks, and Iraqi infantry soldiers, is conducting operations throughout the 30-square-kilometer town. Coalition forces have been planning for the arrival of the battalion for several weeks.

"This battalion is well-trained, well-equipped and well-led,"



Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Mechanized Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade stand watch in the Western Baghdad district of Abu Ghraib. The battalion has been introduced into Abu Ghraib to improve security.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Maria Mengrone

said U.S. Army Maj. Web Wright, spokesman for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. "This introduction will bring a huge capability to the Coalition forces in this area of operations."

The introduction of the Iraqi battalion to the area brings a local eye and effective capability in the fight against the insurgency.

"Only an Iraqi can really understand what is going on in an Iraqi neighborhood," said Wright. "They speak the language, they know the people, and they can tell when something is just not right within the population."

The Abu Ghraib area has been a hotly contested battle ground since the war began in March 2003. The Baghdad suburb, formerly a military industrial town for Saddam's army, supported the Hamarabi Republican Guard Division prior to the liberation of Iraq. Due to the geographic location, Abu Ghraib has been used as a trafficking area for the former Ba'ath Party insurgency and Zarqawi terrorist network between Baghdad and Fallujah.

"This is a perfect example of what the Iraqi government is trying to accomplish," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Infanti, deputy brigade commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. "They are getting Iraqi Security Forces to take responsibility within the country to destroy the insurgency. These soldiers are well-trained and are willing to fight for democracy and freedom."

# Alert Iraqi soldiers nab Abu Ghraib terror suspect

## 10th Mountain Division Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD - A combined force of Iraqi and American Soldiers captured a suspected insurgent and discovered a cache of weapons May 7 in the Western Baghdad district of Abu Ghraib.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion Mechanized, 1st Brigade, 9th Iraqi Mechanized Division, and 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, questioned two Iraqi men while on a routine patrol. One of the Iraqi soldiers was suspicious of the two men and recommended they detain them. An American Soldier felt there was insufficient evidence to detain the man, but the Iraqi soldier insisted the man was a possible terrorist and recommended they search his house.

The Iraqis and Americans searched the house and discovered a 122mm artillery round, three hand grenades, 9 volt batteries and 25 feet of detonation chord, all materials for making improvised explosive devices. The Iraqi Army soldiers detained the two men for questioning.

"Iraqi Army soldiers have just recently been introduced into the security operations of Abu Ghraib," said U.S.

Army Maj. Web Wright, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division public affairs officer. "The Iraqi Security Forces are the key to success for eliminating the terrorists. They know when something is not right. They know the neighborhoods better than we ever could."

Examples of Iraqi knowledge and instinct like this put faith into the Iraqi people that their countrymen will eventually be able to control Iraq with complete autonomy, said a translator with 2nd Brigade, who asked that her name not be used for security reasons.

"When they see neighborhoods with the Iraqi Army, that will give them a feeling that things are getting better," she said. "Iraqi people know how to deal with Iraqi people."



A soldier from the 1st Mechanized Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade stands at his post near the western Baghdad district of Abu Ghraib.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Maria Mengrone

# Iraqi police refine emergency response skills

**By U.S. Army Spc. Mary Rose**

Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Military law enforcement has instituted a police officer survival course to hone the skills of Iraqi police and further establish an emergency response force in Baghdad.

Many of the police officers who are going through the course will become part of the Emergency Response Force. These teams will be specially trained in reacting to special situations in Baghdad.

“We are training the response team to be able to respond and control emergency situations,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Starsky Smith, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of training, 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, Fort Hood, Texas.

The beginning phase is a five-day course and is taught by a military police squad from the 401<sup>st</sup> MP Co., 720<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> MP Brigade. The course involves first aid, searching vehicles, removing suspects from vehicles, handcuffing techniques and improvised explosive device and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device awareness.

There are 157 emergency response force recruits currently going through the training. The training is all hands-on so the Iraqis will have a stronger grasp of their duties and specific tasks when actually faced with challenges, Smith said. During first aid, vehicle search and suspect extraction training May 10, each police officer personally went through many different hands-on techniques to ensure they understood what they are supposed to do in the different situations.

“We are continuously training the police to make them a



Iraqi police officers train on searching vehicles, removing suspects from vehicles and learn handcuffing techniques May 10 in Baghdad, Iraq. The Soldiers conducting the training are with 401<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, 42<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Mary Rose

force in Baghdad,” said U.S. Army Capt. Beth Hurlburt, Iraqi Police operations officer, 42<sup>nd</sup> MP Brigade.

Not all of these Iraqi police officers will go on to be part of the elite Emergency Response Force. Approximately 30 percent of them will be trained on a higher level so they can become trainers.

The police officers will be tested on what they have learned throughout the week of training and will take a physical fitness test to assist the Iraqi police leaders and MPs in the process of choosing the most suitable recruits to continue on with higher training.

After the best are selected, they will continue their education with special weapons and tactics training so they will have the tools to come back as trainers.

“They will be able to teach others what they’ve learned,” Hurlburt said. “It’s like training the trainers and then they will train trainers. We are helping them toward self-sustainment.”

The training will improve their skills and knowledge, and in turn, improve the survivability of the police force as a whole, Hurlburt added.

“You can never have too much training,” Smith added.

This course is part of the Police Partnership Program in Baghdad. The Partnership Program links military police and Iraqi police together so they can learn from each other and become better officers. The 42<sup>nd</sup> MP Bde. is also partnering with the Iraqi Police leadership at Baghdad Police Headquarters in training to become a more competent and effective staff.



Iraqi policemen place bandages around each other's heads to simulate proper care of head injuries during the Police Survivability Course conducted May 10.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Mary Rose



# Iraqi soldiers wrap up 'Operation Cobweb'

**By U.S. Army Capt. Peter Molineaux**  
CMATT, MNSTC-I

**SOUTHEAST IRAQ** – Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, also known as "Al Karar," concluded their participation in "Operation Cobweb" May 10.

The mission was designed to locate, eliminate and prevent the establishment of insurgent sanctuaries in northern areas of Iraq's Wasit Province. Operation Cobweb was led by forces of the Multi-National Division Central-South (MND-CS) from May 6-10.

During the mission, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Al Karar Brigade discovered a number of caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives in areas inside the Wasit Province. Along with conventional weapons such as AK-47s and RPG-7s, members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion also found a variety of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, and complex time fuses.

"For obvious reasons, I'm very pleased with the results of this operation," said Iraqi Col. Rahman Jerry Chilab, brigade commander, through an interpreter. "The soldiers of the Al Karar Brigade conducted themselves with the highest professionalism throughout the mission, and learned things that only come with experience. There is also a great sense of accomplishment in removing powerful weapons from the hands of terrorists and preventing them from being used against Iraqi and Coalition forces." Rahman said.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion discovered DVDs and other materials containing pro-insurgency and anti-Iraq propaganda, some showing the execution of Iraqi

Ministry of Interior officials. The caches also contained the distinctive black uniforms of the former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's "Fedayeen" forces. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion detained 29 suspected members of the insurgency.

"This was a great opportunity for the Al Karar Brigade to demonstrate its capability to conduct large-scale operations involving three battalions and a brigade headquarters element," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Daniel Christian, commanding officer of the Advisor Support Team (AST) assigned to the brigade. "Cordon and search missions such as these not only allow the Al Karar Brigade to have a substantial impact on the insurgency's ability to operate, but also enable the brigade to improve on its tactics and techniques for future operations."

The multinational forces that participated in Operation Cobweb included the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Brigade Combat Team and the 8th Iraqi Division.

"We are looking forward to more operations such as these, in which we can make a major contribution," Rahman said. "We hope to use the extensive intelligence information that we gathered from this discovery to assist the planning of additional missions in the future."



Soldiers from the Al Karar Brigade's 2nd Battalion move to seal off an avenue of approach in the Wasit Province.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Christopher Miele



An Iraqi soldier catalogs weapons, ammunition and documents from a cache discovered in Wasit Province.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Christopher Miele

"At the end of the day, the results speak for themselves," Christian said, noting the list of items captured by the soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

"However, we view this mission as only the beginning of a productive relationship between the Al Karar Brigade and Coalition Forces. These results are only a small indication of what these soldiers will be able to achieve in the future as they refine their tactics and techniques."

The Al Karar Brigade is currently headquartered southeast of Baghdad in the Wasit Province.

The Al Karar Brigade's AST is comprised primarily of Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve's 98th Division, an Institutional Training unit based out of Rochester, NY. Many of the ASTs have been with the brigade for more than seven months. They trained the Iraqi soldiers throughout the eight-week Basic Combat Training course, which finished the first week of February. The 98th was mobilized to support the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq in 2004.



Members of the first class to graduate from the Babylon Academy high-step in their gear (above) during a ceremony that featured formations of Iraqi flags and new recruits (below). U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus praised the graduates for making it through months of tough training. Photos by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Fred Wellman



## Iraqi instructors train Iraqi police officers in first Babylon Academy graduating class

AL HILLAH, Iraq - The Iraq Police Service graduated 517 officers May 12 from basic police training in Al Hillah. This was the first eight-week course to graduate from the Babylon Academy, which represents the first of Iraq's police academies to use only Iraqi instructors.

The 18 Iraqi instructors were selected after attending an Advanced Instructor Training course. "They are the best of the best," said Iraqi Maj. Bassin Mohammed, the academy dean.

The graduation ceremony was particularly poignant as the police recruits marched with each platoon leader carrying a placard inscribed with the name of a police officer killed in the line of duty. The name of the martyred officer was announced as each platoon passed the stage.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, attended the ceremony. He commended the graduates for successfully completing months of tough training.

"Iraq's greatest resource is not its oil, its water or its farmland," Petraeus said. "It's you, its people, and especially its leaders."

## Did you know?



## Iraq Facts

**Area:** 437,072 sq km total (water - 4,910 sq km; land - 432,162 sq km) \*Slightly more than twice the size of Idaho

**Land boundaries:** 3,650 km total

**Border countries:** Iran 1,458 km, Jordan 181 km, Kuwait 240 km, Saudi Arabia 814 km, Syria 605 km, and Turkey 352 km

**Coastline:** 58 km

**Population:** 25,374,691 (July 2004 estimate)

**Age structure:** 0-14 years: 40.3%; 15-64 years: 56.7%; 65 years and over: 3% (2004 estimate)

**Ethnic groups:** Arab 75%-80%, Kurdish 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian or other 5%

**Religions:** Muslim 97% (Shi'a 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%

—from worldfacts.us website



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi soldiers stop suicide car; nab suspects, weapons caches

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces captured 14 suspected terrorists, found two weapons caches and saved the lives of multinational forces and civilians when they stopped an attempted car bombing here May 5.

Iraqi police officers on patrol in the Wehda district of central Baghdad spotted a dark blue Hyundai with the windows blown out. The police investigated and found explosives in the car. The police cordoned off the area and an Iraqi explosives team arrived on the scene to dispose of the bomb.

Elsewhere, soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Army Division, conducted a sweep for weapons caches and anti-Iraq forces in the Harbiya district of central Baghdad. In a little over an hour the Iraqi soldiers detained 10 suspects and found a weapons cache of 50 rocket-propelled grenades, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers and four types of explosives. The suspects and weapons were taken into custody.

“The capabilities of Iraqi Security Forces speak for themselves,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a Task Force Baghdad spokesperson. “Iraqis are stepping forward to serve in the security forces and going on the offensive to take back their country.”

In southwest Baghdad, Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad soldiers found four armor-piercing rocket-propelled grenade rounds while conducting a joint patrol. The rounds were concealed by a light cover of soil. When the Iraqi and U.S. soldiers investigated further, they detained three suspects at the site and found a weapons cache containing over 5,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, two rockets and detonation cord. The soldiers also found initiators, remote detonation devices, wire and cordless phones which could be used to detonate bombs. The three suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

In combat operations in west Baghdad, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers patrolling here noticed a local national acting suspiciously prior to entering a house in the Ghazaliya district. The patrol entered the house and found a weapons cache consisting of 25 feet of detonation cord, two nine volt batteries and three hand grenades. The Soldiers also took the local national into custody for questioning.

Another U.S. unit in west Baghdad also found a weapons cache hidden in a warehouse in the Ameriyah neighborhood. The Soldiers found 36 AK-47 assault rifles, a bullet riddled car, four vests and 12 radios.

Later in the day, an Iraqi civilian provided information to U.S. Soldiers which led to the capture of a terrorist specifically targeted for engaging Coalition forces with sniper fire. (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

## Iraqi police remove IED

BAQUBAH – Iraqi police were dispatched to investigate a reported IED in southern Mufrek. Aided by an Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team, the IED was disarmed and

removed May 13, according to a multinational forces report.

The IED consisted of two 120 mm artillery rounds. Iraqi police officials stored the shells for later disposal.

## Oil Security Battalion finds IED

KIRKUK – Iraqi soldiers from the Oil Security Battalion (OSB) disarmed an improvised explosive device (IED) they found on the Kirkuk-to-Baji main pipeline May 3 in Kirkuk Province. The OSB Squad disarmed the IED and brought it to Task Force Liberty Soldiers at a Coalition Forces base for disposal. (Task Force Liberty Public Affairs)

## Third “Muthana” Brigade gears up to fight terror

CAMP LIBERTY - One of the newest weapons against the insurgency, the 3rd Battalion, 3rd “Muthana” Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division began advanced marksmanship and close quarters battle training recently at Muthana Airfield in Baghdad.

In the shadow of an uncompleted mosque near Forward Operating Base Independence, leaders of the Iraqi Army battalion trained their soldiers in marksmanship skills, live fire exercises, and close quarter battle drills.

“The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade is right on track with their training,” said U.S. Army Maj. Web Wright, public affairs officer for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. “They have really impressed the Coalition advisers with their ability to pick up the training and their dedication to this effort.”

The unit has been living and training under fairly austere conditions. As the unit progresses with their training, workers continue with the construction of the base. Currently the soldiers are living in tents and making due with undeveloped facilities. The end state is a significant military base with the newest provisions that can be provided.

Once certified as mission capable, they will assume combat operations in the Baghdad area. (10th Mountain Division Public Affairs)



Soldiers from the 3rd “Muthana” Battalion conduct dry fire close combat training on Muthana Airfield. Close combat training is a core competency skill which will be vital in the urban environment of Baghdad.

Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division Advisory Group

# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi police catch car bomber

TIKRIT – Iraqi police tracked down and arrested a man who fled a car loaded with explosives May 6, according to a multinational forces report.

The police responded to a report made to the Tikrit Joint Communications Center about a vehicle borne improvised explosive device that was parked in an undisclosed location. A man was seen running away from the car, described as a BMW, and toward local garages and the city health center.

The man was arrested and the Tikrit SWAT team secured the scene. An explosive ordnance disposal team took control of the vehicle.

## Joint raid yields weapons, cash and six detainees

TUZ – Acting on intelligence information, Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers planned and executed a joint raid on the home of a suspected arms dealer located southwest of here May 6, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from the 209th Battalion IA and Coalition forces (2-278) participated in the mission which resulted in the capture of three RPG launchers, one IED, detonation cord, three sniper rifles, 7.62 mm ammo, \$300 U.S., and six detainees.

EOD was called in to dispose of the IED. No injuries were reported.

## Sweeps lead to caches

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers conducted joint search operations here May 6 in an effort to capture weapons and deter anti-Iraqi forces operating in the area, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Division and Coalition forces (1-156) identified a cache including 50 RPGs with propellants, four types of explosives, and three RPG launchers. Ten suspected insurgents were detained. No injuries were reported.

## Iraqi forces seize 154 suspects

BAGHDAD - In the last 72-hours, Iraqi Security Forces detained 154 suspected insurgents in the Dora and Abu Dsheer areas of the Al-Rasheed district of Baghdad.

Two separate operations were conducted May 7. Iraqi soldiers detained 29 suspected insurgents in Abu Dsheer and soldiers from an Iraqi Public Order Battalion detained 44 suspected insurgents in Dora.

On May 9, Iraqi Security Forces conducted two more operations. Iraqi soldiers searched 20 targets and detained 47 suspected insurgents in Dora. Iraqi commandos detained another 34 suspected insurgents in the Abu Dsheer neighborhood.

"These operations were significant because they were planned and conducted solely by Iraqi Security Forces," said U.S. Army Col. Ed Cardon, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team commander. "These operations demonstrate the growing power of the ISF to control security in dangerous areas like Dora and Abu Dsheer."

## Multinational forces net 13 terror suspects, weapons

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers from 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division captured eight terror suspects after stopping a vehicle in west Baghdad May 8.

The Iraqi soldiers examined the identification cards the passengers gave them and noticed they were fake Iraqi police identifications. When the soldiers inspected the vehicle, they found traces of TNT. All eight suspects were taken into custody for questioning.

In other combat operations May 8, Iraqi Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division conducted an early morning raid and detained two suspected terrorists in the Ghazaliya neighborhood.

In south Baghdad, a U.S. unit conducted a precision operation to capture a specifically targeted terror cell leader believed to have plotted an assassination attempt on former Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi. The soldiers took two detainees into custody for questioning.

Later in the day, an Estonian Army platoon operating in west Baghdad found a weapons cache in the Abu Ghraib neighborhood. The soldiers found four mortar rounds with fuses, three rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 200 rounds of assault rifle ammunition and one black ski mask.

## Iraqi Army discovers explosives

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Army soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, found a large weapons cache and detained four individuals during an early morning raid May 9 in north central Baghdad.

The raid near the town of Al Waziriah netted nearly 100 sticks of the plastic explosive C-4 and several suicide vests. Iraqi soldiers also found a possible "hit list" of names to target. The names of Iraqi army and Iraqi police members and other officials were reportedly among those on the list.

Terrorists have attacked Iraqi Security Forces in this area which includes the unit's headquarters. The four suspects are currently in Iraqi army custody for questioning.



Iraqi Army soldiers inventory munitions and explosives seized during an early morning raid on a suspected terror cell in north central Baghdad. Iraqi soldiers captured four suspects, nearly 100 sticks of C-4 plastic explosives, suicide vests and a possible list of targets.

U.S. Army photo



# Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

## Iraqi Security Forces destroy IED

FALLUJAH – Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade, Iraqi Intervention Forces, discovered an improvised explosive device while on a dismounted patrol in eastern Fallujah May 7, according to a multinational forces report.

The IED was a 120mm round with wiring attached to the top of the ordnance. The soldiers secured the area until an explosive ordnance disposal team arrived to destroy the IED in place. No injuries were reported.

## Citizen tip leads to capture of vehicle bomb factory

MUHALLABIYAH – Acting on a tip from a local citizen here, Iraqi Army and Coalition forces discovered a vehicle borne improvised explosive device factory while conducting cordon and search operations May 7, according to a multinational forces report.

In addition to finding two prepared VBIEDs and large quantities of bomb-making materials, 34 suspected insurgents were detained.

The two vehicles were already set with blasting caps and explosives. The first vehicle contained 21 122mm high explosive rounds. The second vehicle had 11 120mm rounds in the trunk, 20 122mm mortar rounds in the back seat, and 23 122mm mortar rounds in the passenger seat. Other items found included: 20 120mm mortar shells, 34 122mm high explosive rounds, 259 blasting caps, 300 feet of detonation cord, and eight pounds of plastic explosive four.

One Iraqi Army soldier was wounded in the operation and evacuated.

Later, while responding to an unrelated IED attack, the same joint task force discovered and disabled a third VBIED that had already been emplaced.

## Iraqi police disarm IED in Najaf

NAJAF – Iraqi police responded to reports of an improvised explosive device in close proximity to the residence of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani here May 9, according to a multinational forces report.

The IED, described as a gasoline can containing four kilos of TNT and three hand grenades with the pins pulled and the spoons wrapped with tape, was positioned approximately 150 meters from the residence. The report states that over a period of time, the tape would dissolve in the gasoline and cause the grenade to ignite the TNT.

An Iraqi Police Service explosive ordnance disposal team disarmed the IED and delivered the contents to the Najaf police force. No injuries were reported.

## Iraqi commandos secure cache

BAGHDAD – Elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Iraqi Army Commando Brigade located a munitions cache in the vicinity of Forward Operating Base Shield May 11, according to a multinational forces report.

The cache contained 10 60mm mortar rounds, three 120 mm artillery shells, and two 155 mm artillery shells.

No injuries or damage were reported.

## Iraqi EOD teams busy disarming improvised explosive devices

BAQUBAH – Iraqi Security Forces responded to a civilian walk-in report of an improvised explosive device here May 11, according to a multinational forces report.

The IED, described as TNT with a timer mechanism, was disarmed and taken away by Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal officials for destruction. No injuries were reported.

Similar incidents of IED discovery and removal were reported in Mugdadiyah and Kirkuk. In Mugdadiyah, an IED was found consisting of two artillery rounds and a Motorola remote detonation device. Iraqi EOD cleared the IED.

In Kirkuk, another IED was discovered by Iraqi police and cleared by Iraqi EOD teams.

## Iraqi soldier fights despite wounds

RAMADI – An Iraqi Intervention Force soldier continued to fight after being wounded during an intense morning battle May 3 with anti-Iraq forces, killing an estimated five insurgents, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Division were at a checkpoint manned by Coalition forces when they came under attack by approximately 20 insurgents armed with grenades, AK-47s, and machineguns.

One Iraqi soldier was shot in the chest and killed. Two other Iraqi soldiers received shrapnel injuries from grenades. One of the injured soldiers fell to the ground and began firing his AK-47 killing the insurgents as they were running into the entry control point. The Coalition and Iraqi Army soldiers killed 12, wounded four, and captured five insurgents.

## Looking back

### One year ago in Iraq

**United States troops and Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army fought throughout the late evening May 13, 2004, trading fire in the Shiite cleric's power centers of Najaf, Karbala and Kufa, despite on-going peace negotiations.**

**U.S. military sources said that the main police station and two tanks came under fire in Najaf, where insurgents used small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. They also stated that 17 Mahdi Army militia members have been killed in fighting in the holy city of Najaf.**

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## Iraqi police graduate 1,469 from basic training

BAGHDAD – The Iraq Police Service graduated 1,469 police officers 12 May from basic police training courses in Al Hillah and Baghdad. Completing the eight-week training courses were 517 police recruits from the Al Hillah Regional Academy and 952 from the Baghdad Police College. The Baghdad class included 16 female police recruits.

The program consists of academic study of general policing topics combined with a heavy emphasis on tactical operational policing skills. The basic police training curriculum was recently modified to include more hands-on and practical training exercises especially addressing specific survival skills needed by today's Iraqi Police Service officers.

To date, more than 31,000 police recruits have completed the eight-week training course developed for new recruits. An additional 36,000 police officers have completed the three-week Transitional Integration Program (TIP) course that provides officers with prior police experience a condensed version of the longer basic police training course.

The new officers will report for duty in the coming weeks and take up their assignments at their respective police stations throughout Iraq.

## Iraqi police graduate 189 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraq Police Service graduated 189 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility May 12.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 48 graduates, Interview and Interrogations with 30 graduates, Internal Controls Investigation with 28 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 35 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 32 graduates and Executive Leadership with 16 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 1,606 police officers have completed the Basic Criminal Investigations course.

The Interviews & Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. There have been 320 students previously completing this course.

Internal Controls provides training on how to deal with personnel complaints and allegations, as well as police conduct in general. Training includes the processing of complaints and conducting follow-up investigations to determine the facts of allegations made against members of

the Iraqi Police Service. The course has previously graduated 639 officers.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. There have been 204 students who have previously graduated this course.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes against persons cases such as armed robbery, rape and murder. To date, 224 students have previously graduated this course.

Executive Leadership covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. Other topics include visionary leadership, organizational values, interpersonal communication skills, motivational techniques and strategies, along with strategic planning. To date, 222 officers have previously graduated from this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.

## Iraqi equipment rollup

**A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces this week**

<b>Ammunition.....</b>	<b>13.3 million rounds</b>
<b>AK-47s.....</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>Grenades.....</b>	<b>4,480</b>
<b>Individual body armor.....</b>	<b>2,750</b>
<b>Z-Back Scatter X-Ray vans.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Ashok Leylands.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Chevy Trailblazers.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Chevy LUVs .....</b>	<b>100</b>

— Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4